



MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Advocating for hospitals and the patients they serve.

TO: Members of the House Health Policy Committee

FROM: David Finkbeiner, Senior Vice President, Advocacy

DATE: October 24, 2007

SUBJECT: House Bills 4940-4945 – Uniform Anatomical Gift Law
MHA Position: **SUPPORT**

The Michigan Health & Hospital Association supports House Bills (HBs) 4940-4945, sponsored by Reps. Angerer, Calley, Clack, Condino, Coulouris and Gaffney. These bills will create the Uniform Anatomical Gift Law, which would solve many donation consent problems by providing a legal foundation for the rights of an organ or tissue donor. Medical professionals would obtain consent for donation from persons who are present and able to act in a timely manner. In addition, this legislation will harmonize the current state statute with federal law, current technology and practice, and Advance Medical Directives.

Gift of Life Michigan reports that Michigan has more than 3,200 residents on the waiting list for a kidney, heart, liver or other life-saving organ. If enacted, this legislation will improve the donation process and creates appropriate guidelines which are expected to increase the number of organs and tissues available for transplant. Increased availability could improve or save the lives of many citizens in need of a transplant.

Currently, twenty states have enacted a similar version of this legislation and it has been introduced in ten others. It is critical that Michigan join the states that have adopted the core provisions of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Law because it will increase the efficiency in which organs can be transported. Little time is available to prepare, transport across state lines, and transplant life-saving organs, let alone to assess and comply with significant variations in state law.

The MHA consistently supports legislation that protects the rights of hospital patients and improves the health status of Michigan residents. Passage of this legislation both protects the rights of donors and places a premium on the use of organs for life-saving surgeries, making this bill package good public policy. **We urge you to support HBs 4940-4945 and vote to save and improve lives with the passage of the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Law.**

Please contact Chris Mitchell (cmitchell@mha.org) at (517) 703-8622 at the MHA if you have further questions on this issue.

SPENCER JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS ♦ 6215 West St. Joseph Highway ♦ Lansing, Michigan 48917 ♦ (517) 323-3443 ♦ Fax (517) 323-0946
CAPITOL ADVOCACY CENTER ♦ 110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 1200 ♦ Lansing, Michigan 48933 ♦ (517) 323-3443 ♦ Fax (517) 703-8620
www.mha.org